

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to our end-of-year holiday edition of *Biophilately*. I wish all of you an enjoyable holiday season and a safe and healthy New Year. This issue contains an index to the articles for both Volumes 60 and 61 because I omitted the index in the final edition last year. I am currently working on revising the master index for all issues from Volume 1 through the current volume. Right now we have not worked out the details for making hard copies of this index available. I am certain there will be some nominal charge for production and postage. However, we will make a copy available on the Biology Unit web site for members to view and download.

In August, I attended the APS Stamp Show in Sacramento, California. See my report beginning on page 190. We entered *Biophilately* in the Literature exhibit competition this year. I am proud to inform you that the judges awarded our journal a **Silver-Bronze** medal. For the judging, we provided two copies of the journal covering the latest four editions. At the end of the exhibition, we opted to donate the copies to philatelic libraries rather than have them returned and I have received a very nice thank you letter from Tara Murray, Librarian at the American Philatelic Research Library acknowledging our gift.

The philatelic literature jury provided very useful feedback for improving the literary quality and functionality of the journal. I have begun incorporating several of their suggestions in this edition. On page 189, you will find a glossary defining abbreviations and other codes used in the publication. I do not know if we will be able to include this listing in each edition, but it will appear in the final edition of each volume. I am pleased to add this because I did not know the meaning of some of these codes myself.

Also, the associate editors have worked together to standardize the checklists so that the format for each entry uses the same pattern. We have been careful to avoid omitting any of the data that the listings previously contained. But in some cases, the sequence of the data in the list will have changed.

You will find some other less obvious adjustments in this issue and I welcome your comments and other feedback on these changes and any other suggestions you have for improving this journal of your study unit.

In the current edition, we continue our regular checklists for new issues. We are still looking for an editor for Herpetology. If you collect this topic and have a listing of recent issues, but are not interested in providing input for every edition, I would be pleased to include your input on a one-time, or part-time, basis for the benefit of others. That offer is also good for anyone who has a specialized listing of the topic you collect. If you have, for example, a listing of all the stamps showing pumpkins, I am sure another member would find it interesting.

Happy holidays!

Jack Congrove

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Chris Dahle, 1401 Linmar Drive NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402